



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Sentenced to 16-Year Prison Term For Shooting 17-Year-Old Victim On Christmas Eve 2009 - Victim Survived, But Doctors Had to Remove Kidney to Control Internal Bleeding -

WASHINGTON - Donzell Baylor, 21, of Washington, D.C., was sentenced today to 16 years in prison for attempting to kill a teenager in a confrontation that took place on Christmas Eve of 2009 in Northeast Washington, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Baylor was found guilty on June 30, 2011, following a trial in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The jury convicted him of charges of assault with intent to kill while armed, aggravated assault while armed, and weapons offenses. He was sentenced by the Honorable Ann O'Regan Keary, who called the crime "shocking" and "a failed murder."

According to the government's evidence, at about 5:15 p.m. on December 24, 2009, Baylor confronted a long-time acquaintance in the 300 block of 50th Street NE. After a brief conversation, Baylor brandished a 9-millimeter pistol and shot the 17-year-old victim in the chest from close range. Baylor attempted to fire again, but his weapon jammed.

The victim ran away from Baylor through the Lincoln Heights housing complex. Ballistics evidence indicated that Baylor attempted to clear his jammed gun as he gave chase so that he could continue firing at the victim. The victim arrived at a neighbor's door, where an 11-year-old child was playing outside in the snow. The victim took cover behind the child. Baylor pointed the gun at both of them and ordered the child out of the way. The child did not move, and ultimately the youngster's presence dissuaded Baylor from continuing the assault.

The victim was taken to a local trauma center, and surgeons had to remove a kidney, pancreas, and part of his liver to control internal bleeding. He was hospitalized for three weeks, but survived his injuries. The exact motive for the shooting remains unknown.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Sixth District Detectives Thurman Stallings, Robert Kacelowicz, Simon Yamine, and Eric Roche, and MPD Officer Wade Zech. He also acknowledged the efforts of

those who worked on the case from the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Jennifer Clark, Jennifer Allen, and Debra Cannon, of the Victim Witness Assistance Unit, and Paralegals Antoinette Sakamsa and Theresa Nelson. Finally, he expressed his appreciation to Assistant U.S. Attorneys Adam B. Schwartz and Holly R. Shick, who prosecuted the case.

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